

ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1941

BY

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

TOGETHER WITH

The Report

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.



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Members of the Council

Chairman :

R. J. MACNAUGHTON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

G. I. BREW

Members :

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MRS. A. M. R. HOOPER

A. McL. NIVEN

W. G. TAYLER

Medical Officer of Health :

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector :

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Clerks :

MISS D. L. HOUGHTON

J. S. RUCK

Public Health Department:

11 Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health of the district for the year 1941.

The report has suffered further curtailment on the lines recommended by the Minister of Health in Circular 2314 of the 26th March, 1941. I have, however, adhered to the practice of issuing the report in printed form for two principal reasons ; firstly, because of the desirability of keeping the reports year by year of a uniform size, and secondly, a greater economy of paper is effected than would be the case if the report were typewritten and duplicated.

There were 19 cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, a fairly high figure compared with previous years. Expressed for the purpose of comparison as an incidence rate on the basis of population the number of new cases bears a ratio of 17:11 to an aggregate rate for the past 15 years. It should be borne in mind that there has been a considerable influx into the district of all classes of evacuees and many families in the district are living in near-overcrowded circumstances. I believe that there are few instances of actual overcrowding as defined by the Housing Act 1936 and where such cases are found every effort is made to alleviate the conditions.

There has also been an increase over last year in the number of cases of measles and whooping cough which first became notifiable in 1940. These diseases were prevalent to the extent of a minor epidemic in 1940/1941 but there is not now an abnormal number of cases. Of the 270 cases of measles notified in 1941 only four cases occurred during the latter half of the year.

As far as the Sanitary Inspector's Report is concerned I am satisfied that creditable progress has been made during the year, and the statistics given in respect of inspections, notices served and improvements effected, show quite conclusively that despite the encroachment of war time duties, the utmost vigilance in public health matters is being maintained.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. WINN EVERETT
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,339 acres
Population, 1921 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,513
Population, 1931 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,400
Registrar-General's estimate of								
(a) resident population mid-1941	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Number of inhabited houses	{ Elstree 1,936							
(end of 1941) according	{ Shenley 548							
to Rate Books	{ Ridge 75							
Rateable Value (1st April, 1942)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£120,725
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1942)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£420

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Vide Annual Report for 1939.

VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	...
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	...
Birth Rate: 15.3 per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1941					
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...
Rate: 5.8 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.					
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...
Death Rate: 8.4 per 1,000 estimated average population.					

The Death Rates for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of London respectively are given as 12.9 and 16.3 per 1,000 population.

* Information not to be published—Circular 2604 of the Ministry of Health, 24th March 1942.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
<i>Deaths from puerperal causes :—</i>		
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	Nil	—
Total	Nil	—

Death rates of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	64
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	62.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	83.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

SECTIONS B, C, D and E.

Sections B to E dealing respectively with general provision of health services for the area, sanitary circumstances of the area, housing and food inspection have been omitted from my report as there is nothing noteworthy to add to the details given on pages 8 to 11 of my report for 1939. Statistics which fall within the purview of these sections are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, which opens on page 7.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 35 cases of Scarlet Fever of which 21 occurred in private households ; of this latter number 19 were removed to hospital. The remaining 14 cases were amongst the patients and staff of the Middlesex Colony, Shenley.

The following table gives details of the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year :

Disease				Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	35	19	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	4	4	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	13	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	270	—	—
Malaria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	84	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	1	1	—

Age-Group				Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...		1	3	2	3	14	2	1	6	1	2	
Diphtheria	...	...	...					1				2	1		
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1				1	3		1	1		3	3
Measles	...	...	...	5	17	26	27	35	131	12	5	12			
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	8	6	10	11	14	30	2	1	2			
Erysipelas	...	...	...									1	3	2	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...									1			
Puerperal Pyrexia									1			

Tuberculosis—*New cases and mortality during 1941.*

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5-10	...	...	...				1				
10-15	...	...	...				1				
15-20	...	...	...			1					
20-25	...	...	...	2	4		1				
25-35	...	...	...	2	2		1				
35-45	...	...	...		1						
65 and up	...	...	...	1	1		1				
TOTALS	...	...	...	5	8	1	5	2	4	1	1

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

As I plunge my hand in the hat to produce my third annual report I realise that each of my reports has been prepared and issued in wartime. Affected by the same need for curtailment, the report for 1941 is as forthright as its predecessors. A few pages of homogeneous statistics present the year's history. Progress has often been fraught with the difficulties which beset most of us in these troubled times, but I look back on the year with that comforting measure of satisfaction which comes to him who has something to show for his efforts.

There is nothing more stimulating than work to be done, nothing more gratifying than that the effort is not in vain, nor the cause unworthy. The difficulties have been offset by your continued confidence in me and the work has been made more congenial by the loyalty of my staff and the co-operation of my colleagues.

I shall not pretend that this report is all I could wish it to be, but if it be read in the light of knowledge that, in common with the vast majority of my confrères, I have frequently been lured away from normal duties by civil defence commitments, it will not be held by any but the most ungenerous that the achievements are inadequate.

Apart therefore from the reservation that this report should not be judged by peacetime standards, nothing modifies my pleasure in submitting the record of another year in your service and if I sought a *mot juste* to round off this preface the words of Mercutio would serve their turn again as a comment on my annual report for nineteen-forty-one :

“’Tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door;
but ’tis enough, ’twill serve.”

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,
Sanitary Inspector.

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Housing inspections	—
Housing re-inspections	7
Public Health Act inspections	44
Public Health Act re-inspections	117
Visits re overcrowding, including computation of permitted numbers	45
Visits in respect of :—	
Infectious diseases	82
Verminous premises	15
Accumulations	34
Animals	7
Bakehouses	7
Dirty houses	28
Drainage	105
Factories	7
Smoke	—
Outworkers	1
Offensive Trades	2
Water Supply	9
Cowsheds	91
Dairies	102
Milkshops	3
Food Preparers	10
Meat Shops	6
Slaughterhouses	115
Stables and Piggeries	2
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers	5
Dustbins	9
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)	13
Passage Paving	—
Offices	3
Conveniences	15
Rats	4
Shops	6
Milk Samples	7
Other inspections	6
TOTAL	907

DETAILS OF INTIMATION AND STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Defects	No. of Notices served
General housing defects including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, window-frames, etc.	24
Overcrowding	1
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act, 1936)	15
Drainage	18
Defective w.c. connections	10
Absence of, or dilapidated dutsbins	4
Choked and insanitary water courses	4
Filthy and verminous premises	3
Insufficient water supply	2
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Board)	2
Offensive accumulations	5
Improper keeping of animals	2
Dairies and cowsheds... ..	12
Food Preparers	4
Factories	3
TOTAL	109

Statutory Notices

Nature of Defects	Statute	No. of Notices served	No. of Houses affected
Insanitary sink	Section 39 Public Health Act, 1936	1	1
Defective yard and pass- age paving	Section 56 Public Health Act, 1936	2	2
Filthy and verminous houses	Section 83 Public Health Act, 1936	3	3
Nuisances	Section 93 Public Health Act, 1936	5	5
Offensive Trades	Section 107 Public Health Act, 1936	1	1
Cowsheds and dairies	Milk & Dairies Order, 1926	2	—
TOTALS		14	12

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Houses
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	8
Floors repaired	2
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed...	5
Leaking roofs repaired	5
Gutterings repaired, cleansed and renewed	1
External brickwork repointed	3
Domestic coppers repaired	1
Dirty rooms redecorated	6
Dirty houses cleansed by occupiers...	2
Dampness remedied	5
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed ...	5
Adequate water supply provided	3
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	45
W.c. and sink connections repaired... ..	10
W.c's. provided with flushing cisterns	1
Paving to yards and passages repaired	5
Ashbins provided	5
Water courses cleansed	3
Accumulations removed	6
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	1
Cowsheds and dairies limewashed	7
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	6
Cowshed approaches cleansed	1
Cowshed floors repaired	1
Food Preparers' premises improved	1
Moveable Dwellings—improvement effected	1
Rooms disinfected	25
Verminous houses disinfested	6

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Number of accredited milk producers	...	...	...	II
Number of tuberculin tested milk producers	...	...	...	I
Number of other producers	...	...	...	II
Number of retail purveyors	...	...	...	20

During the year 196 inspections were made of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops. Seven samples were taken from purveyors within the district the results of which are enumerated below :—

No. Designation	Result of bacteriological examination		Action
	methylene blue	Coliform bacillus in 1/100 ml.	
1 Accredited	Satisfactory	Absent	—
2 Accredited	Satisfactory	Present in 2 tubes	Produced outside the district. Referred to appropriate Inspector.
3 Accredited	Satisfactory	Present in 3 tubes	Letter to producer (local). Farm visited. Suggestions made to improve standard of milk.
4 Tuberculin Tested	Satisfactory	Absent	—
5 Pastuerised	Satisfactory	Absent	—
6 Accredited	Satisfactory	Present in 1 tube	Letter to producer (local). Farm visited. Suggestions made to improve standard of milk.
7 Accredited	Unsatisfactory	Present in 3 tubes	Local producer : second unsatisfactory sample (see No. 3). Farm kept under observation : frequent visits, certain improvements effected.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND
PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	6	95	33	136	406
Number inspected	6	95	33	136	406
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	11	—	—	3
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ...	—	11.5%	—	—	0.7%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcass condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	14	—	—	3
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with tuber- culosis	16.7%	14.7%	—	—	0.7%

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal
Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence
of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 15

Action under Statutory Powers During the Year

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices
were served requiring defects to be remedied 7
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied
after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 7
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners —

